

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 35

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—Rua do Marquês d'Auroras  
HON. HENRY W. HILLIARD,  
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## PHILADELPHIA — 1876

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## THE EMANCIPATION QUESTION.

In the session of the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly of the 29th ult., Deputy Pedro D. G. Paes Leme, who is a prominent planter of this province, took occasion to discuss the slavery question and more particularly the results of emancipation in the United States. The arguments used and statistics given were the same as those used in a communication to the *Jornal do Commercio* of November 5, in reply to Minister Hilliard's letter on the results of American emancipation. This first article attracted some attention among slave-holders particularly as Mr. Paes Leme precluded his discussion with the assertion that he had travelled in the United States and had thoroughly studied the question; but it showed so much misplaced knowledge and so little familiarity with the real factors in the discussion that an answer was wholly unnecessary. As Mr. Paes Leme has seen fit to revert to this same subject again and in so public a manner as to emphasize his errors, we shall refer to them briefly.

As to the repeated assertion that Minister Hilliard has unwarrantably interfered in the domestic concerns of Brazil, and that his conclusions on the results of emancipation in the United States are erroneous, we have only this to say: there has been no interference whatever in the domestic affairs of Brazil by the American minister, and his conclusions on the results of emancipation are based upon personal and positive knowledge. Having lived all his life up to the civil war in a slave-holding community, having seen and felt the one great blow which gave freedom to four millions of slaves, and then having seen the work of recovery and assimilation and prosperity growing out of the disorganization caused by war and unconditional emancipation, he is exceptionally well fitted to give a correct opinion—and for that opinion his unquestioned integrity of character is a full guarantee. With Mr. Hilliard's statement of causes and results in hand, no one has any need to go to Mr. Paes Leme for information.

As to the results, which are considerably termed "pernicious effects," Mr. Paes Leme asserts that in the question of cotton production "one should study the decade before the war, and the period occurring between 1860 and 1870," that there was a great increase in pauperism and crime after the war; that the sugar industry suffered the greatest prejudice and that "ten years after the war this industry had scarcely reached a third of what it was in 1861," and that therefore the results of immediate abolition have been "fatal" both to society and to industry. To prove these assertions there are given the criminal and pauper statistics of 1850, 1860 and 1870 in which the increase for the last-mentioned year is clearly apparent; the plantation statistics of 1860 and 1870 in which the decrease in the acreage and value of the plantations, in the number of horses and cattle, and in public wealth, is shown; the exports of cotton from 1836 to 1868 inclusive, and the production of sugar in the years 1850, 1854, 1861, 1864, 1870 and 1874. Attention is also called to the estimated value of two sugar plantations before the war which sold for a very small part of those values after the war.

With all due respect for the opinions of Mr. Paes Leme we beg to submit that this is more statistical juggling. There is not one single argument, not one sound conclusion on the results of emancipation in the whole of his labored arraignment. In the first place he leaves out of consideration the one important fact that during the five years from 1861 to 1865 the South was one great battle-field where a million of men fought for the mastery. During that period the production of cotton and sugar ceased, plantations were destroyed, railways were torn up, provisions were consumed even to the verge of starvation, all business enterprise was suspended, every port was blocked, and enormous debts were contracted.

At the close of the war in 1865 these enormous armies were disbanded, and as in all similar cases there was an increase in pauperism and crime. That increase was very noticeable in the North which had escaped the ravages of war; it was more so in the South where contending armies had left a once beautiful land blackened and barren. And yet all these sad results of a most destructive war Mr. Paes Leme ascribes to the immediate abolition of slavery—and that, too, in the face of repeated assertions of prominent Southern statesmen to the effect that the negro has developed into an orderly and industrious citizen. Had Mr. Paes Leme studied the question half as well as he says he has done he would have found that the great majority of the crimes committed in the South just before and following 1870 were not committed by the negroes, but by the whites, chiefly through the agency of a secret organization known as the Ku Klux Klan. And were he wise, he would not have laid down that ridiculous principle that "one should study the decade before the war and the period occurring between 1860 and 1870"—a principle which requires us to draw a comparison between ten years of peace on the one hand, and five years of war and five years of blind endeavor to clear away the wreck and to rebuild social and political communities on the other hand. Such an assertion is simply puerile; it brands the whole argument as unworthy of serious consideration. It is evident that all comparative statistics based on such a principle are utterly worthless.

The real value of these statistics in which five years of peace are contrasted with five years of war and three years of reconstruction, will be seen in the following statement of the cotton production in periods of five years, beginning with the crop-year 1850-51 and ending with 1879-80—the product of the last year being estimated at 5,675,000 bales:

1850-51 to 1854-55 inclusive	14,410,534 bales
1855-56 to 1859-60	18,102,577 "
1860-61	3,656,086 "
1861-62 to 1864-65 inclusive	no returns
1865-66 to 1869-70	11,912,596 "
1870-71 to 1874-75	19,250,068 "
1875-76 to 1879-80	24,629,402 "

1850-51 to 1859-60 inc. (peace) 32,513,111  
1865-66 to 1874-75, (reconstruction) 31,662,604

From these statistics, which show the aggregate production of cotton, it will be seen that there has been a rapid increase since the war—an increase solely due to the labor of the freedmen. More than that, it will be seen that the product of the ten years immediately following the war—a period when the freedman was learning his first lessons in free labor and self-control—the total product lacked only 1,350,507 bales of equalling the product of the ten years before the war when slavery was at its height and the planter had everything in his own way, even to the political control of the government.

The sugar industry, which was almost totally destroyed by the war, has shown a similar increase since 1865. As the sugar-producing states were occupied by contending armies during the war the plantations could hardly be expected to flourish, and their great depreciation in value is not at all surprising. The domestic production of cane sugar by single years, as given in the annual report of the New York Chamber of Commerce, was as follows:

1860	119,931 tons
1865	5,000 "
1870	46,800 "
1875	63,500 "
1879	112,000 "

It is well understood by all sane men that war does not tend to stimulate production to any great extent. The low results for the years between 1861 and 1870 will therefore be well understood. That they were not the result of the abolition of slavery is as clear as the light of day. It is the unanimous testimony of all well-informed men that the South was never more prosperous than to-day, and that this happy result is owing to the substitution of free for slave labor. Whatever troubles may have occurred there, they have been the result of political rather

than industrial causes. Of this we need only quote the following from John W. Fomey's campaign biography of General Hancock:

It is astonishing how much farther hard old-time truth goes than ordinary figures of speech, and the tables teaching than any rhetoric. Several disenchanted secessionists appear. First, the old slaves have worked better in freedom than in slavery. Next, the old slave-owners have got richer in freedom than they did in slavery; next, the increase in the railroads of the South has been almost as rapid as the growth of railroads in the West; next, the population has been astonishingly augmented in many quarters; next, popular education is spreading wider and staying more steadily.

## AN EXTRA-COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

To the Editor of THE RIO NEWS:

Sir:—The following printed circular, which undoubtedly has been sent to many prominent business houses, has just been placed in my hands.

[Translation.]

Dear Sir:—From the circular recently published, and which accompanies this, you will readily comprehend that it would be an unpardonable fault on our part, and even an insult to the class which you so ably represent, to exclude you from that co-operation which the Permanent American Exhibition solicits from all.

On this account, and because the commercial body is deeply interested in the object in question, this board of directors has resolved to select you to represent it in obtaining supporters of this enterprise, and begs to hand you the enclosed list.

As we are well aware of your great influence and your extensive commercial relations, we beg to thank you in anticipation.

Your obedient servants,  
JOÃO FRANKLIN DE ALENCAR LIMA,  
VICENTE DE S. CHRISTÓVÃO,  
DOMINGOS MONTINHO,  
ER. ARTHUR.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have been a merchant in Brazil a great many years and I have seen a great many strange business ventures, but I think I never saw such an amazing piece of impertinence as this. In the first place, I am a British merchant whose business this scheme is designed to destroy, and I am asked to contribute money and influence toward accomplishing that end. In the second place, I am one of those "foreign merchants" whom the projectors of this scheme are advertising in the United States as being "alarmed at the American exhibition" and as "endeavouring to get possession of a majority of the stock issued in order to defeat the purposes of the projectors of the enterprise." And yet, I am now solicited to aid the enterprise and to induce others to take stock in it! Furthermore, I am one of those who, according to Mr. Hopper, are making "50 per cent." out of the Brazilian public. What am I to do, therefore, with an enterprise which proposes to charge only "five per cent." on all sales effected? And further, the American public is told that "the country [Brazil] is controlled by a few merchants who subject the people to a burden," and yet my tyrannical services are solicited in behalf of this beneficent agency through which Brazil is to be emancipated from—myself! And still further, I am one of those wretched "foreign merchants" who, according to Mr. Hopper, have purchased *The Rio News* and are distributing its "vile issues" over the United States, but whose reckless career has been brought to a sudden termination by a prosecution for "personal vilification." And yet, "usurer," and "monopolist" and "villager" that I am said to be, I am now called upon to lend my "great influence" and "extensive relations" to aid a scheme which I am accused of using such base means to injure! Permit me to say, Mr. Editor, that I have lived in this city a great many years, and this is the first time, within my knowledge, that I have been taken for a fool. It is my private opinion, publicly expressed, that this circular is one of the coolest pieces of impertinence on record—it would do credit even to Mr. Hopper.

As to the scheme itself I have only this to say. If American manufacturers see fit to get up an exhibition and pay for it like men, that is an affair of theirs, not mine. I do not believe in such extra-commercial enterprises myself, simply because all business experience is against them. England did not build up her trade here, nor elsewhere, by any such clap-net expedients, but her merchants went out into foreign markets, established commercial houses, invested their money in them, and then by close attention to business and careful study of every special feature and requirement of the market, won the position which they now occupy. It is a good old custom in English houses to send out boys to these foreign markets where they are trained into a thorough knowledge of their peculiar conditions and requirements; and then, in good time, these boys become the managers of the business. Against such a system the Americans must oppose something more substantial than "drummers," speculators, and sample shows, before they can hope for any substantial success. And more than that, the effort must come directly from themselves as a guarantee of their good purposes, instead of from foreigners, as illustrated by the above circular, whose interest in American trade is at best an unknown factor.

As a British merchant, and one whose age and experience entitles my opinion to some consideration, I can frankly say that we have nothing to fear from such an enterprise as this Permanent American Exhibition—which is really American only in name. Should it ever be carried into operation—which I do not anticipate in the least—it will result in many severe losses and in the forced sale of large quantities of unsuitable goods—through which our business may be slightly injured for a time. When it is all over, however, we shall be the gainers, as American trade will suffer a severe blow through the unbusiness-like character of the enterprise. A sound business is always benefited by the failure of an unsound one. As far as regular competition is concerned, we are ready to meet the Americans just as we meet the French and Germans. We are ready to acknowledge their superiority in some lines of goods, and, through proper methods, we are aware that they will win and hold a certain share of foreign trade; but until they settle into permanent, responsible business-like methods of trade, we shall suffer as little as they will gain.

And as to that "50 per cent." profit which Mr. Hopper accuses us of making, it is quite as mythical as his assumed character of an old merchant of this city. For myself I would be very glad to clear out my whole stock to-day on an average profit of five per cent.; more than that, from present indications, I will be delighted to accept an average profit of five per cent. on my business for the coming year.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
A BRITISH MERCHANT.  
Rio de Janeiro, 10th December, 1880.

MARTIN GARCIA.

The visit last week of President Roca in this historic island brings it under fresh notice before the public; not that we attach any more political significance to his excellency's visit to this island than to his trip down in the Boca two days before. Martin Garcia is technically called the Gibraltar of the Plate, and for the last twenty years there has been a continued dreamy effort to fortify it, in the style of its great name-ake, but rich and magnificent as are the Uruguay and Paraná, these noble rivers must run for long ages to the sea, before they can rank with the Mediterranean, and our River Plate Gibraltar can seek no higher importance than the interests which it guards or the trade of which it holds the key. So far back as 1887, Congress voted a considerable sum of money for the fortification of the island, and there can be no doubt that the place to-day wears a very different appearance from its usual aspect in 1850. Several of our great heavy guns are mounted, and earth works that cost millions of paper dollars are completed that show we attach higher value to the place than that of a mere prison island, or a quarry wherewith to pave the streets of Buenos Ayres. There are batteries and soldier's quarters, and Comandancia, and a long high pole from which, from sunrise to sunset, the Argentine flag flies. The result of the trip and the island inspection, is to use President Roca's own words, most satisfactory, and instead of spending money in making increased fortifications, earth works and batteries on the island, the government will buy a large powerful dredge, to continue the channel and canalization works of the Boca. The public will, no doubt, fully approve of President Roca's determination in this matter, the canalization and improvement of the Boca being infinitely more desirable than the mounting of batteries, new guns, etc. The allegiances of the island as a maritime station will be the subject of a message to Congress, and it is also proposed to make the island the head naval station of the republic and supply it with a large graving dock.—Buenos Ayres *Standard*, Dec. 4.







## PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The November receipts of the São Paulo provincial postoffice were 13,257,040.

—Twenty-one slaves have been freed at Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, through the emancipation fund.

The November receipts of the Rio Grande custom house were 238,155,049, and from internal revenue 28,722,045.

The *Regeneração*, of Santa Catharina, says that the Santa Cruz light, at the north bar of that harbor, is to be substituted by a red light of higher class.

—The provincial budget of Ceará for the fiscal year 1881, appropriates a total sum of 913,590, of which 179,700 is destined for public instruction. The receipts are estimated at 885,000.

—The November receipts of the Bahia custom house were: national 879,080,975, provincial 119,292,895; internal revenue: national 70,138,820, provincial 40,599,596.

—According to the *Gazeta*, of Porto Alegre, the total amount collected in the province of Rio Grande up to date for the relief of the sufferers from the Santa Catharina floods, exceeds 6,000.

—A woman named Severa was murdered at S. Luiz Gonzaga, Maranhão, toward the close of last month, by Rapunudo Joaquim dos Santos, a soldier stationed at that place. The assassin was arrested.

—The municipality of Diamantina, Minas Geraes, frees 20 slaves with its quota of the present emancipation fund distribution, amounting to 25,408. To this sum the slaves added 7500 as the amount of their savings.

—The *Pravencia*, of São Paulo, of the 10th inst., says that two tickets of the new Rio lottery of 6,000,000, have been discovered in São Paulo with identical numbers—that of 150,110. That squares the score on the Vipuranga duplicates.

—The *Pravencia*, of Pará, of the 13th ult., announces the discovery of a defalcation in the post-office of that province. The superintendent, Aureliano Pinto Lima Gaeles, had been suspended. According to the *Diário de Belém* the defalcation amounts to 23,014,410.

—The recent case of attempted poisoning at Ilhéu, São Paulo, was that of Maria Leopoldina da Silva Cruz. The guilty party was her husband, Lieut. Carlos Augusto de Vasconcellos Tavares, who has since been arrested, together with a female slave as an accomplice in the crime.

—The November returns of the Pernambuco custom house show the following results:

	1880	1879
Customs.....	1,320,228,802	964,968,817
Consulados.....	200,212,830	191,030,314
Recbedoria.....	47,979,400	40,081,120

—The amount collected at Santos from the 15 per cent. tax on foreign goods shipped from one Brazilian port to another, from the 1st of January to the repeat of the 1st in November, was 42,969,875. And for so petty a sum the late financial light of this country thought himself justified in imposing this vexatious and unjust tax.

—The receipts of the municipal treasury of Pernambuco during the quarter ending September 30 were 50,555,504, which added to a balance of 27,028,847 remaining over from the preceding quarter gave a total of 77,584,351. The expenditures during the quarter were 58,414,154, leaving a balance in the treasury of 19,169,197.

—A murder occurred on the Villa Rica plantation, Campos Frios district, Pernambuco, on the 19th ult., in which a woman named Josepha Francisca de Brito, broke into the room of a neighbor, Maria Joaquina de Nazareth, and stabbed her so fatally that she died the following morning. A jealousy between the two women was the cause.

—At a meeting of the planter's club of Campinas, São Paulo, on the 8th inst., the present anti-slavery movement came up for discussion. After two hours had elapsed it was finally decided to appoint a commission to carefully study the whole question and to formulate an opinion upon the position which commerce and agriculture should assume toward the movement.

—The provincial government of Bahia signed a contract with Thomas Passini on the 23rd ult., for a season of Italian opera during the coming year. The contract specifies the number of artists, the number of pieces in the orchestra, and the opera to be sung. The season will be three months, to begin not later than May 15. The provincial government will pay a subsidy of 20,000.

—The *Gazeta de Porto Alegre* is pursuing a course in its selection of serial stories which deserves the highest commendation. It has already published Portuguese versions of some two or three of Dickens' novels, and has just now begun "Nicholas Nickleby." In view of the wretched trash published by many papers, the readers of the *Gazeta* should consider themselves highly fortunate.

—The November receipts of the Santos custom house were 531,272,562, as against 525,388,788 for the same month of last year. The principal items are,

	1880	1879
Imports.....	276,520,863	228,025,173
Exports.....	227,021,505	285,053,201

The deposits, included in the above totals, were 2,122,686 in the past month and 2,468,779 in the same month of last year. The November internal revenue receipts were 136,260,754.

—On the morning of the 9th inst. José do Valle, a son of Valério José do Valle, a planter of Pernambuco on the "União Industrial" road, was killed by four slaves, each one of them striking him with a knife in turn. The assassins were captured in the afternoon at Entre Rios, no real cause being offered. The victim was a young man of 18 years, and was highly esteemed in that locality. On the following day a large body of people attended the burial, after which, under the impulse of great excitement and indignation, some 300 hundred of them marched to the jail, took out the prisoners and killed them.

## RAILROAD NOTES.

—The November receipts of the Carangola railway were 48,258,340.

—The minister of agriculture has directed that tenders shall be solicited for the extension of the Dom Pedro II railway.

—The October receipts of the Ferri de São Anna branch of the Central Bahia railway were 11,574,780 and the expenditures 11,386,840. The number of passengers carried was 2,247.

—The *Gazeta* is informed that the Cantagallo railway is to be sold. The provincial government will not call for tenders owing to the failure of the call at the beginning of the year.

—The October receipts of the Paulista railway were 236,574,750 and the expenditures 71,490,999. For the four months ending October 31 the receipts amounted to 723,603,880, and the expenditures 257,890,931, leaving a net balance of 465,712,949.

—The *Gazeta*, of Porto Alegre, is informed that the government is about to invite tenders for the construction of the north line of Rio Grande, from Santa Maria to Uruguayana. The interest guarantee is 7 per cent. The government will require the completion of the line in a very short time.

—It is announced that the minister of agriculture is about to reduce the fare on the Dom Pedro II line between this city and Cascadura—a distance of 16 kilometers. The new rates will be 200 reis first class, and 100 reis second class—the pupils in the primary schools being carried gratuitously.

—A meeting of the Sorocabana shareholders was held in this city on the 4th inst. There were present 35 shareholders, representing 11,512 shares. The action taken by the previous meeting was unanimously approved. The election resulted in the choice of Francisco de Paula Mayrink as president, and Galdino José de Bessa and Eduardo Klinghoffer as directors.

—The narrowest of narrow-gauge railways in the world is the line between Bedford and North Bletchley, Mass. It has a grade of only ten inches. The road is 8½ miles long, has eleven bridges, and in one place has a grade of 15 feet. The cars seat thirty persons and are marvels of convenience and comfort. The engines weigh eight tons each, and the cars four and a half tons. The trains run twenty miles an hour with perfect safety. The cost of the road was about \$4,500 per mile.

—In reply to a petition from the Imperial Brazilian Natal and Nora Cruz Railway Co. for an interest guarantee on an additional amount of capital of 800,000\$ for the construction of a branch line from Natal to Ceará-mirim, the minister of agriculture refuses compliance on the grounds that there now remains only about one-sixth of the amount of 100,000,000\$ authorized by law upon which guarantees can be granted, and there are some provinces which have not yet received their just share of the benefits arising from such favors.

The total export of breadstuffs from the United States during the nine months ending September 30 amounted to a value of \$208,679,542, against \$176,399,946 in the same period of 1879. The export of wheat amounted to 106,091,637 bushels, and of flour to 4,506,849 barrels. The export of provisions in the same period amounted in value to \$103,724,559 against \$81,919,055 the year previous. The export of bacon and hams amounted to 597,110,470 pounds.

A new industry has sprung up in the state of Louisiana through the production of oranges. Its extent, and it has only just attracted attention, may be estimated from the fact that between the 1st and 26th of October there were shipped over one railway for northwestern cities 21,000 barrels containing 4,300,000 oranges. The fruit is said to be much superior to the Cuba orange and fully equal to that of Florida.

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